Boosting Tobacco Exports by Stabilising Domestic Markets

6307. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has emphasised the need to have a stabilised domestic market to ensure rising exports of tobacco products; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to maximise exports of tobacco by stabilising the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Measures taken to boost export of cigarettes and other tobacco products include :—

(1) Undertaking trade promotion measures such as aggressive publicity in overseas markets, participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, trade delegation to importing countries etc.

(2) Promoting export oriented units for export of cigarettes.

(3) Permitting foreivn investment in cigarette industry mainly for export of cigarettes.

(4) Encouraging manufacturers to establish ware houses in CIS countries for stock and sale of cigarettes.

(5) Permitting cigarette manufacturers to import various items with a view to enable them to undertake product development.

Export of Indian Traditional Medicines to USA

6308. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the delegation of the Basic Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Chemexcil) held discussions with Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institute of Health (NIH) during March, 1994 with an intention to market Indian Traditional Medicines in USA; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and what is the possibility of exporting these drugs to USA?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the discussions, the officials of US FDA mentioned about registration requirement for approval of herbal formulations. As per the existing US FDA rules & regulations for ayurvedic/herbal formulations for sale in that country with medicinal/therapeutic claims on the product label, compliance with US FDA regulation is very much necessary as they insist on product safety, efficacy, absence of toxilogical/narcotic substances etc. The US National Institute of Health (NIH) also voiced the same. There is good potential for exports of Indian ayurvedic Medicines/traditional medicines to USA and other Western countries provided these are reported according to US FDA specifications.

Low Production of Tea in the Cachar Area

6309. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cachar area produced only an estimated 42 million kilograms of tea in 1993 due to the perennial problem of floods in the Bank river; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to enhance tea production in this area and to contain the menace of floods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Estimated production of tea in Cachar area of Assam during 1993 has been 42.44 million kilograms as compared to 43.69 million kilograms during 1992. Production tea in this area during 1993 has been affected due to problems of floods.

(b) In order to increase production of tea, Tea Board provides financial assistance to the tea growers including growers in Cachar area under various developmental schemes of the Board, Tea industry have represented to the Govt. of Assam to take steps to control menace of floods?

Scheme to Improve Productivity of Tobacco

6310. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a scheme to improve per acre productivity of tobacco yeilds in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) which organisation is monitoring and implementing such a programme; and

(c) the results achieved in 1993-94 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tobacco Board is implementing the scheme for improving the productivity of POV tobacco with technical assistance of Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRT). Rajahmundry.

(c) The average yiald of FCV tobocco in A.P. was 1082 kgs|Hectare in 1993-94.

Research on Tobacco Cultivation

6311. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the relevant bodies of the Ministry dealing with tobacco research have done any work on sprinkler or drip irrigation system on higher productivity yields for tobacco in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the organisations Institutes which conducted these experiments;

(c) the results obtained from such research work;

(d) whether Government propose to extend the system of scientific irrigation in tobacco cultivation in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether it is a fact that tobacco farmers have not been involved by Government is sorting out their problems; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry (under Ministry of Agriculture) has done some work on the subject.

(c) In the case of sprinkler irrigation experiments carried out by the Institute showed water economy upto 17 per cent as compared to furrow irrigation. Similarly, in experiments undertaken with drip irrigation significantly faster growth rate was observed during the vegetative growth phase. Higher yields of green and cured leaf were obtained. Water economy was also observed upto 15 per cent as compared to furrow irrigation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.